

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 03909 231114Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06  
PRS-01 SY-05 MCT-01 A-01 /071 W  
-----056172 231555Z /44  
R 230936Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4588

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3909

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS ET IT ASEC  
SUBJECT: ARMED INTRUDERS ON ITALIAN EMBASSY COMPOUND

1. ACCORDING ITALIAN AMBASSADOR GUIDI, AT APPROX 2015 EVENING JUNE 22, TWO MEN ARMED WITH "MACHINE GUNS" ENTERED ITALIAN EMBASSY COMPOUND APPARENTLY BY GOING OVER WALL AND WENT TO CHANCERY. NO ONE WAS THERE AND THEY UNABLE ENTER. AFTER DIS-ARMING ONE COMPOUND (ETHIOPIAN) GUARD, SHOOTING BROKE OUT APPARENTLY WHEN OTHER GUARDS ARRIVED. NO ONE HURT, AND INTRUDERS DISAPPEARED.

2. POLICE ARRIVED PROMPTLY BUT WAITED TO ENTER COMPOUND UNTIL ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR WHO WAS AT DINNER AT YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR'S (SO WAS CHARGE). AMBASSADOR PERMITTED POLICE TO ENTER CHIEFLY FOR PURPOSE OF SEARCHING COMPOUND WHICH LARGE AND FAIRLY HEAVILY WOODED. THEY FOUND NOTHING EXCEPT NUMBER OF BULLET HOLES IN VICINITY OF SMALL BACK GATE. ITALIANS HEARD SAME THING HAD HAPPENED AT FRENCH EMBASSY, BUT FRENCH SAID NO.

3. ITALIANS HAVE NO FURTHER INFO. AMBASSADOR SPECULATES THAT INTRUSION MAY HAVE BEEN ATTEMPT BY LOCAL OPPOSITION TO EMBARRASS EPMG ON EVE OF MASSIVE PARADE PLANNED FOR JUNE 25 THROUGH SPECTACULAR MOVE THAT WOULD BE NOTED BY  
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LARGE CONTINGENT OF FOREIGN PRESS CORPS NOW IN ADDIS. HE MAY BE RIGHT. THERE WERE OTHER INSTANCES OF SHOOTING IN TOWN AT APPROX SAME TIME, AND DEPT WILL RECALL EVENTS OF APRIL 29 WHEN LOCAL OPPOSITION GROUPS CAME OUT INTO OPEN JUST BEFORE MAY DAY AND PROVOKED WIDE-SCALE SHOOTING. IN ANY EVENT, WE ARE TIGHTENING UP OUR OWN SECURITY AT LEAST FOR NEXT FEW DAYS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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